

Listing of the Claims

1 Claims 1 - 16 (canceled)

1 Claim 17 (previously amended) A transport device for housing a long length nuclear fuel
2 assembly, said device comprising:

3 a compartment having substantially the same length as the fuel assembly, said compartment having
4 fixed walls extending in a longitudinal direction and defining an interior space of the compartment, and an
5 opening at a distal end of the compartment in said longitudinal direction;

6 a fixed structure rigidly attached to one of said fixed walls of the compartment, and comprising
7 at least one fixed guide element extending in a transverse direction transverse to the longitudinal direction
8 of the compartment;

9 a mobile structure that can be moved in the transverse direction to apply pressure on the fuel
10 assembly, the mobile structure comprising at least one transverse mobile guide element slidably engaging
11 the fixed guide element on the fixed structure,

12 an adjustable clamping device comprising:

13 a pneumatic cavity configured to provide a force on the mobile structure in said transverse
14 direction thereby adjusting a clamping force of the mobile structure on the fuel assembly in response to
15 pressure changes in the pneumatic cavity, and

16 an air inlet control device located at said distal end of said compartment in the longitudinal
17 direction and configured to provide air to said pneumatic cavity to clamp the fuel assembly in a fixed
18 position within the compartment.

1 Claim 18 (previously added) Device according to claim 17, in which the mobile structure
2 comprises a plane plate parallel to the fuel assembly replacing at least part of the compartment wall.

1 Claim 19 (previously added) Device according to claim 17, in which the clamping elements are
2 elastic.

1 Claim 20 (previously added) Device according to claim 17, in which the guide elements rigidly
2 attached to the fixed structure and the mobile structure slide in each other.

1 Claim 21 (previously added) Device according to claim 17, in which the fixed structure and the
2 mobile structure are connected together by a return spring.

1 Claim 22-28 (withdrawn).

1 Claim 29 (presently amended) A transport device for housing a long length nuclear fuel assembly,
2 said device comprising:

3 a compartment having substantially the same length as the fuel assembly, said compartment having
4 fixed walls extending in a longitudinal direction and defining an interior space of the compartment, and an
5 opening at a distal end of the compartment in said longitudinal direction;

6 a fixed structure rigidly attached to one of said fixed walls of the compartment, and comprising
7 at least one fixed guide element extending in a transverse direction transverse to the longitudinal direction
8 of the compartment;

9 a mobile structure that can be moved in the transverse direction to apply pressure on the fuel
10 assembly, the mobile structure comprising at least one transverse mobile guide element slidably engaging
11 the fixed guide element on the fixed structure,

12 an adjustable clamping device comprising:

13 a pneumatic cavity configured to provide a force on the mobile structure in said transverse
14 direction thereby adjusting a clamping force of the mobile structure on the fuel assembly in response to
15 pressure changes in the pneumatic cavity, and

16 an air inlet control device located at said distal end of said compartment in the longitudinal
17 direction and configured to provide air to said pneumatic cavity to clamp the fuel assembly in a fixed
18 position within the compartment, Device according to claim 17;

19 wherein the combined guide elements and the adjustable clamping device comprise:

20 a cylindrical jack body with a transverse axis, rigidly attached to the fixed structure comprising
21 a guide rod in which a compressed air inlet duct has been formed along its axis projecting from its free end,
22 a plurality of cylindrical chambers at its periphery with an axis parallel to the jack axis, each of the
23 chambers containing a compression spring, the springs clamping the mobile structure into the fuel
24 assembly,

25 a fixed piston rigidly attached to the said free end of the guide rod comprising a seal at its
26 periphery,

27 a mobile collar rigidly attached to the mobile structure located inside the jack body and adjusted
28 to the shape of said jack body, this collar being inserted between the fixed piston and the jack body and
29 sliding along the guide rod along a corresponding bore formed in said collar, said collar also comprising
30 at its periphery a plurality of housings that nest in an adjusted manner into each of the chambers by moving
31 transversely to the longitudinal direction of the fuel assembly,
32 wherein said air inlet control device comprises a compressed gas supply means opening at an
33 accessible end of the compartment and carrying gas into a pneumatic cavity located between the fixed
34 piston and the mobile collar through the duct.

1 Claim 30 (withdrawn).

1 Claim 31 (cancelled).

1 Claim 32 (cancelled).

1 Claim 33 (new) Device according to claim 29, in which the mobile structure comprises a plane
2 plate parallel to the fuel assembly replacing at least part of the compartment wall.

1 Claim 34 (new) Device according to claim 29, in which the clamping elements are elastic.

1 Claim 35 (new) Device according to claim 29, in which the guide elements rigidly attached to
2 the fixed structure and the mobile structure slide in each other.

1 Claim 36 (new) Device according to claim 29, in which the fixed structure and the mobile
2 structure are connected together by a return spring.
